

POLICY / COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

FEBRUARY 2, 2009

Oliver Administration Building

Present

Subcommittee: Diana Campbell, Chair, Denise Arsenault and John Bento

School Committee and Administration: Karen Lynch, John Saviano, Paul Silva Edward Mara and Melinda Thies

Diana Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:11 PM, once the School Committee meeting had adjourned.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: John Saviano motioned to approve the minutes to the September 2, 2009 meeting; Karen Lynch seconded; the motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

MOTION: Denise Arsenault motioned to approve the minutes to the January 5, 2009 meeting; John Bento seconded; the motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Public Participation at School Committee Meetings

Policy KD (also BDDH) Public Participation at School Committee Meetings

No changes necessary.

Policy BDDB iV Agenda iV Meeting Format

Ed Mara made the changes to Section VI. Reports, making it more generic as was suggested at the last meeting. Further changes were suggested to allow flexibility for the Chair: Line 1;X;§The suggested order of business of a regular meeting or workshop of the . . . i§

Denise Arsenault asked that Public Forum be stated separately from Public Comment to assure the public feels welcome to participate in both workshops and meetings and can speak on any topic.

MOTION: Denise Arsenault motioned to make the following changes to Policy BDDB:

„Í Add i§suggestedi” and i§or workshopi” to line 1

„Í List i§Open Forumi” as a separate agenda item

„Í Change item VI.c. to read i§Administration/ Cabinet Reports determined by the Chair and Superintendent as neededi” and delete items VI.c.1, VI.d., and VI.e.

and forward the revised policy to the full Committee for a first reading on February 23.

John Bento seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Subcommittees of the School Committee (Policy BCE-R)

„Í §Periodically studies reports on student progress and on standardized test results.í”

Discussion continued on the presentation of testing information. Melinda Thies felt the information should be a formal presentation at designated workshops, April and in the fall, and not necessarily presented first to the Policy Subcommittee. Paul Silva suggested the Subcommittee approach administrators to make a special presentation on items of interest at a School Committee workshop. Denise Arsenault suggested copies of administratorsí reports be available for the public at the meetings. Diana Campbell would also like to open the opportunity for principals to report on School Improvement Team plans.

„Í §Represents the board in matters concerning security, space and community use of facilities.í”

Karen Lynch questioned the implication of the word íspaceí”íXdoes this refer to space for education or for use by the community.

MOTION: Denise Arsenault motioned to continue this discussion to the next meeting. John Bento seconded; the motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Peanut Allergy Law

Edits to draft:

„Í P.3, School Protocol, second line;Xchange í\$.í” To í\$,í”

„Í P.4, last paragraph;Xí\$hint/herí” to í\$him/herí”

„Í P.6, Sample Letter to Parents, third paragraph;Xí\$please make sure to let us the principal and/or school nurse know this . . .í”

MOTION: Denise Arsenault motioned to adopt this policy with the changes noted above, and refer it to the full Committee for a first reading on February 23. John Bento seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Paul Silva left the meeting at 7:55 PM.

Bullying (JGF) / Teen Dating Violence

The Committee reviewed Melinda Thiesí revision to the Bullying Policy to include Teen Dating Violence. This document is intended to be an official policy and the language should be converted by middle school staff to make it easily comprehensible for their students. The information contained in the policy has been embedded in the health curriculum. The role of the District is to educate students on what behaviors are not appropriate and to let them know there are safe places to where students can report.

Denise Arsenault asked that the word í\$teení” be removed throughout, as dating before the teen years is not uncommon. Also

that the definition of "dating partner" be added to #4: Dating Partner means any person involved in an intimate association with another primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement whether casual, serious or long-term."

MOTION: Denise Arsenault motioned to add the definition of "dating partner" to item #4, remove the word "teen" throughout, and forward the revised policy to the full Committee for a first reading on February 23. John Bento seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Field Trips and Excursions (IICA)

Diana Campbell has deep concerns about field trip experiences being offered to some students but not all. For instance, only one or two teams of Kickemuit students go to Nature's Classroom. She would like the 5th bullet of the policy changed to include overnight trips; the goal is to provide equitable and equal access to all students. Karen Lynch feels that this would penalize those who do have the opportunity to go and this is not fair. It is believed that not all teachers can participate because some have small children at home cannot leave the household for four full days; Diana feels that if pressed, teachers and administrators can find a way to make it happen for everyone. Melinda Thies said we can begin to open this up and offer a culture building field experience beyond the norm to all students, not necessarily nature's classroom or an overnighter; she cautioned

about putting too much into the policy; the stakeholders have to get involved. John Bento feels the middle school administrators should give some input into the development of these changes. Ed Mara will invite interested middle school staff to the next Policy Subcommittee meeting to get direct feedback from them and them from us; he added this involves a huge expense. Various fundraisers were suggested.

Mt. Hope High School Attendance (JED-E)

MOTION: Denise Arsenault motioned to remove exhibit JED-E Mt. Hope High School Attendance from the policy book. John Bento seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Student Absences and Excuses (JED)

MOTION: Denise Arsenault motioned to remove the third paragraph (Any student missing class, unexcused, will receive a zero or F grade . . .) from the policy and forward the revision to the full Committee for a first reading on February 23. John Bento seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Wellness Policy (JHCG) and Appendices 1 V 5

Diana Campbell reported the Wellness Committee has prepared some input; one goal is to include staff. Sonya Whipp has also submitted some recommendations. Karen Lynch feels there has to be a balance

between eating healthy and allowing party foods.

MOTION: Denise Arsenault, seconded by John Bento, motioned to continue discussion at the next meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Disclaimer for Policy Books

All agreed the proposed disclaimer composed by Attorney Henneous was a good idea, however, Denise Arsenault raised concern about not all policy books out there being up to date. The most correct, updated source is our website.

MOTION: John Bento motioned to add the line "This policy book is available on line at www2.bw.k12.ri.us" and place the disclaimer in the front of every policy book. Denise Arsenault seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

March 2, 2009, 6:00 PM at Oliver

Adjournment

At 8:55 PM, Denise Arsenault motioned to adjourn; John Bento seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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